please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 5, beginning at line 13:

Nonwoven web materials of this invention include, but are not limited in any way to, spunbond materials, meltblown materials, bonded carded web materials, air laid materials, bonded and unbonded pulp materials, coform materials, fibrous materials such as fluff and combinations thereof, for example, multilayer materials and laminates.

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In accordance with one embodiment of this invention, the gelling and thickening agents are applied in a pattern within a nonwoven material, thereby enabling two types of fluid control within the component. In accordance with another embodiment of this invention, the gelling and thickening agents are employed in specific areas of the absorbent article so as to restrict fluid movement within the article. As shown in Fig. 5, the gelling agent 102 may be disposed in a central location of the absorbent 101 of a feminine care product 100 to improve overall containment of menses, and therefore capacity, in that region of the product. As shown in Fig. 6, a gelling agent 105 may be disposed alongside or within the edges of the absorbent core 104 of a feminine care absorbent article 103, thereby gelling

menses that is insulted or wicked into this area. In this manner, an effective barrier to fluid flow beyond the edge of the absorbent is created. Similarly, as shown in Fig. 7, gelling agents 108 may be located alongside or within the end of the absorbent core 107 of an absorbent article 106 to create an effective fluid barrier at the ends of the absorbent core. The gelling agent may be varied in the z-direction of the product. The gelling agent may also be disposed only in the cover or upper airlaid layer (cover-facing portion of the absorbent core) to control stain size or in the middle or lower layers of a multi-layer absorbent to impart the barrier function for leakage prevention. Other types of patterning, such as the application to either the cover or the absorbent of the thickening or gelling agent in a checkerboard pattern, could be employed whereby fluid encountering the areas that contain the thickening or gelling agent would start to gel while still permitting the fluid flow through the areas that did not contain the gelling agent. Fig. 8 shows an absorbent article 109 having a cover 111, an absorbent 110, an internal partial barrier 112, a baffle 114 and a backsheet 113 with placement of gelling agents 112 in a central region or within a relatively open, low basis weight component of the absorbent article 109 to eliminate or slow wicking of fluid to a component disposed therebelow. By slowing the movement of the fluid to the bottom layer, the integrity of the bottom layer is preserved and overall product shape is maintained throughout the wear time of the product.